

News From
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RHODE ISLAND



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**CHAFEE ANNOUNCES LABOR DEPARTMENT
DECISION: TRAINING NOW AVAILABLE FOR FORMER
EMPLOYEES AT LEVITON MANUFACTURING**

PROVIDENCE, RI – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today announced that a second investigation by the U.S. Department of Labor has determined that all workers of Leviton Manufacturing Company's Hillsgrove Division in Warwick are now eligible to apply for Worker Adjustment Assistance.

"I am very pleased that the Department of Labor took a second look at this situation and ruled in favor of the Rhode Islanders who have lost their jobs at Leviton," Chafee said. "I urge all former Leviton employees to apply for this assistance to help recover from being displaced," Chafee continued.

An initial investigation resulted in a negative determination, which was issued on March 21, 2003. It was based on a finding that imports of electrical wiring devices did not contribute importantly to worker separations at the Hillsgrove plant and that there was no production shift to a foreign country.

To support a request for reconsideration, company officials supplied additional information. Upon further review, it was revealed that the company had shifted production of electrical wiring devices to Mexico during the relevant period and that this shift contributed importantly to layoffs at the Warwick facility.

In conclusion, Elliott S. Kushner, certifying officer in the Labor Department's Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance, determined "that there was a shift in production from the workers' firm or subdivision to Mexico of articles that are like or directly competitive with those produced by the subject firm or subdivision, and there has been or is likely to be an increase in imports of like or directly competitive articles."

As a result, "All workers of Leviton Manufacturing Company, Inc., Hillsgrove Division, Warwick, Rhode Island who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after December 16, 2001 through two years from the date of certification are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance under Section 223 of the Trade Act of 1974."

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